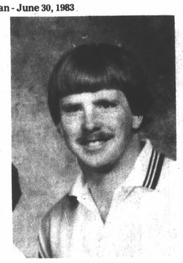
Joe Fraley graduates



Joe Fraley

Joel Edward Fraley, a 1979 graduate of Appomattox County High School, received a Bachelor of Science degree in Health and Physical Education June 11 at Virginia Tech commencement exercises.

He is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Charles Fraley, Jr., of Appomattox.

Joe is married to the former Karen Gillaspie of Concord. They live in Blacksburg.

Lifesaving course offered this summer at FRCC

An advanced lifesaving course will be offered at Falling River Country Club for all persons age 16 or older with good swimming skills.

The course is designed to teach basic rescue and water safety skills. The course is for Red Cross certification in advanced lifesaving.

Cost of the course will be $25.00 for members of the club and $35.00 for guests of members.

The class will meet two times a week for two hours per meeting, and is limited to 20 persons.

All those interested in taking the course are asked to contact instructor, Jane Bennett (WSI certified) at 352-8609 or 352-5120 (pool) on or before June 30.

VA questions answered

Editor's Note: Following are representative questions answered daily by VA counselors. Full information is available at any VA office.

Q - What are the procedures for applying for a home loan under the GI bill and how is the rate of interest determined?

A - The veteran must first apply for a certificate of eligibility from the VA by submitting the proper application and a copy of his discharge. The certificate of eligibility is then presented to the lending institution who submits the loan application to the VA for approval. The VA does not make the loan; it guarantees it, and it is the veteran's responsibility to find a lending institution. The VA sets a maximum interest rate that the lender can charge, and the rate in effect at the time the loan is closed applies to the loan. The current interest rate for a VA guaranteed loan is 12 percent.

Q - What is the value of a VA-guaranteed home loan?

A - The VA promises private mortgage lenders that they can collect any amount which may be due them when an eligible veteran defaults on his loan. This in effect makes the VA the veteran's co-signer on the loan, and makes the veteran a more attractive customer to the lender. This generally means that the veteran will not be required to make a down payment as part of the loan.

Medium-sized farms may soon be memory

HARRISONBURG - America's medium-sized farms may soon become just a memory in this nation's agricultural history books.

That was the message of a keynote address at the two-day 1983 Forum on the Future of Virginia's Agriculture by Jasper Womach, specialist in agricultural policy for the Library of Congress' environment and natural resources policy division.

Womach, in his remarks delivered June 21 at James Madison University, said economic and technological forces are leading this nation's agricultural producers to be composed of large efficient farms or small, part-time operations that are subsidized with off-farm income.

This change eventually will eliminate the medium and small full-time farms. Strong economic forces are pushing for this change and "no farm policy short of rigid controls is likely to stop or reverse this trend," Womack said.

The policy specialist told those attending the Virginia Cooperative Extension Service meeting that the burden of adjusting to technological progress and changing market conditions falls upon high-cost, inefficient farms which is a natural consequence of a dynamic market system.

Noting that demand conditions will stabilize while commodity prices will decline as world production increases, Womack said, "the farmers who will prosper are those who increase their productivity at a rate faster than the decline in prices. The less productive farms will not be able to stay in business."

Support prices are too high when the current world agricultural picture is considered, he said. That is why Secretary of Agriculture Block is asking for reduced price supports for milk, lower target prices for grains and repeal of the honey price support program. A freeze on the tobacco loan level also is "likely."

He predicted that farm programs will continue on a path toward an open market system although programs still will be needed to spread production and market risks of farming.

"It is possible that dairy and tobacco legislation created a precedent that may be applied to other commodities. That precedent is to have the producers finance their own commodity programs, or at least cover the losses so the burden does not fall upon taxpayers."

He said there are two new-risk sharing possibilities on the horizon - commodity future and revenue insurance.

"Commodity futures options already are being tested. Options markets will not do anything to alter fundamental supply and demand conditions but they can provide farmers with another mechanism to shift the risk of price movement

"A completely new concept is revenue insurance...Analogous to federal crop insurance for protecting against production losses, revenue insurance would give the farmer a guarantee that revenue per acre of each crop woudl not fall below some proportion of normal or expected revenues," Womack said.

He noted that the U.S. Department of Agriculture and the Congressional Budget Office are studying revenue insurance at the request of Congress.

Howard McDowell, Virginia Tech Extension agricultural economist, reviewed the history of the long-standing dairy price support program for forum participants.

He examined the provisions of the Dairy Production Stabilization Act of 1983 now being considered in Congress. One provision of the proposed legislation, paid diversion for reducing production bases, could benefit Southeastern U.S. producers though most interest is being exhibited by producers in the upper Midwest.

Peter Vitaliano, Tech assistant professor of agricultural economics, saw several bright spots in the nation's economy but predicted that economic recovery will take some time.

Although interest rates have gone down, he said, they remain high and have contributed to the nation's deteriorating foreign trade balance. Vitaliano said this has resulted in declining U.S. exports while imports have been increasing.

"Those who have employment or have substantial amounts of investable funds will find their individual economic situations improving to various degrees in the next several months.

"On the other hand, those who have neither, or who are dependent upon one of the depressed farming sectors to make a living, will not."

He noted that consumer spending and industrial production have continued to rise since the first of the year while interest rates have declined somewhat.

He noted that unemployment continues to remain high and cited predictions that this year's rate will be 10 percent and will only drop to 9.1 percent in 1984.

There is some speculation, he said, that the recent recession has left in its wake "a new irreducible minium unemployment level of nine percent."

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Charles Fraley promoted

Charles Fraley

Charles L. Fraley of Appomattox has been promoted by the Department of State Police to the rank of lieutenant and will assume duty as headquarters lieutenant in Salem as of July 1.

Fraley, who joined the Department of State Police in 1956 was promoted to sergeant in 1976. He has been a first sergeant in Appomattox since 1978.

He is married to the former Melaine Brewster, and they have four children, Joe, Charles (Bubbie) Jr., Lea Beth and Marie.

BRIAN SIDNEY DICKERSON, 11-year-old son of Mr. and Mrs. Raymond Dickerson of Pamplin, had an exciting time fishing with his father and brother recently. He was the lucklest of the three when he landed this six pound, 23-inch-long bass. He caught the fish in a pond owned by his aunt and uncle, Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Spain of Pamplin. He took the largemouth bass on a plastic worm.

Awards banquet held at Boys' Plantation

The thirteenth annual Awards Banquet at Patrick Henry Boys Plantation of Brookneal was highlighted this year with the presentation of the "Shaffer Outstanding Citizenship Award" to Jeff Kenyon of Bedford, and the "Dr. O.E. Howe Outstanding Citizenship Award" to Tina Fincham of Ruther Glen.

The speaker for this special event was Dr. Charles Gibbony of Bristol, Tennessee. Dr. Gibbony was sponsored for this occasion by Huff-Cool Mutual Burial Association of Bristol. Dr. Gibbony, in his usual witty form, was a great hit, and challenged the group to strive for the top, using each one's personal ability to seek a better level.

A former resident of the Home, Mr. Tommy McSherry, spoke to the group concerning his experience at the home as a young boy and thanked everyone for the opportunities offered him. Tommy, a computer programmer, now lives with his family in Roanoke, Va.

The "Shaffer Outstanding Citizenship Award", presented to Jeff Kenyon, and the "Shaffer Academic Award", presented to Doug Fincham of Ruther Glen, are sponsored by Dr. and Mrs. Lee Shaffer of Roanoke. Wayne Mays of Evington was awarded the "Olney Outstanding Athlete Award" which is sponsored by Mr. and Mrs. Elbert Olney, Fairfax. The "Pratt Room Award" was presented to Ronnie Wilson of Roanoke, by Mr. Frank Pratt, Lynchburg, the award sponsor. The "Diamond Hill Presbyterian Church Music Award" was presented to Steve Richardson, Evington, by Mrs. Mary Foster, Rustburg. The "Koren Outstanding Farmer Award", sponsored by Hon. & Mrs. Henry L.T. Koren, Boca Grande, Florida, was presented to Jeff Kenyon, Bedford.

The "Dr. O. E. Howe Music Award" was presented to Catherine Clements, Charlottesville, and the "Dr. O.E. Howe Academic Award" was presented to Lynn Pulliam, Appomattox, by Mrs. Helen Dudley, Evington. Each of the Boys Plantation and Girls Home recipients was awarded a $50 Savings Bond, a trophy, and their names were engraved on a permanent plaque. The presentations were made by Robert W. McCullough, the Executive Director, with the assistance of the sponsors present.

Mr. Bill Brown, Administrative Assistant, presented the intramural awards as follows: In the English Cottage, Jeff Ward won pool, table tennis and stratego; Brian Dorn won pool; Ken Yeater, checkers; Ronnie Wilson, table tennis and checkers; David Whitmore, chess.

In the Stephens Cottage, Leroy Smith won pool, table tennis, checkers and air hockey. In the Plymale Cottage, Dan Terry won pool; Rodney Staton, pool; Mathew Bailey, table tennis, checkers and air hockey; Jeff Kenyon, table tennis and checkers; J.C. Corbman, air hockey.

The following awards were presented to the girls at the Dr. O.E. Howe Home in Rustburg. Sandra Phelps, pool; Catherine Clements, ping pong; Lynn Pulliam, checkers; Elizabeth Ann Smith, checkers.

Among the special guests present for the banquet and presentations were Dr. and Mrs. Lee Shaffer, award sponsor and Trustee, Roanoke; Senator and Mrs. Howard Anderson, Trustee, Halifax; Mr. Frank Pratt, Executive Committee and award sponsor, Lynchburg; Mrs. C.I. Anderson, Trustee, Rustburg; Mrs. Lucy Williams, Trustee, and Miss May Williams, Brookneal; Mrs. Helen Dudley, Dr. O.E. Howe Board Trustee, Evington; Mr. and Mrs. Tommy McSherry, former resident, Roanoke; Mr. and Mrs. Roy Capehart, former house parents, Roanoke; Mrs. Oscar B. Enright, Jr., Mr. and Mrs. John V. Bush, Mr. Glenn Trent, Mrs. Helen Burton, Chris Burton, and Mr. and Mrs. Ed Layne, Lynchburg; Mr. David S. Walker, Charlottesville; Dr. and Mrs. Ronald Stallings, Charlotte Court House; Mr. Carl R. Mylius and Mr. Ray Turner, Halifax; Mr. Fred Carter and guest, Rockbridge County; Mr. Howard Carter, Gladys; Mrs. J.K. Andrews, Brookneal; Mr. and Mrs. F.E. Brown Trustee, Forest; Mrs. Monroe Maxey and Susan, Mrs. Mary Foster, Advisory Board member, Mrs. Eunice Bailey, Mrs. Barbara Farmer and Mr. and Mrs. Morris Bailey, Rustburg; Mr. William M. Rogers, Ashland; Mr. Aubrey Mason, Executive Committee and Trustee, Lynchburg; Mrs. Louis Bridgforth, Mr. William L. Bridgforth, Jr., Mrs. Charles P. Glenn, Trustee, and Mrs. Grace Cox, Farmville; and Mrs. Charles Gibbony, Bristol.

The Patrick Henry Boys Plantation, Inc., is a non-profit charitable program providing care for 36 boys at Brookneal and 12 girls at Rustburg. They are now in the process of renovating "Sunny View", a nineteenth century home at Cluster Springs in Halifax County. This facility will be a satellite group home for 12 additional boys. These programs are operated on charitable contributions, with no tax or governmental funding. A very diversified program is offered to assist children in a Christian family environment.